



The Dambusters Bulletin

Important News from the Save the Mary River Coordinating Group Inc.
March 9 2009
Day of Action Update

Day of Action: Taking Mary to the Marginals

On Saturday March 14 we take Mary to Brisbane for a day of Save the Mary action.

This is a crucial opportunity to get our message widely heard in Brisbane on the last Saturday before the State Election. Activities will include pamphlet distribution, marginal seat letterbox drops, a ute rally and sidewalk campaigning to save the Mary.

A team of tireless volunteers spent Sunday bagging 14 kg of No Dam candy and bundling postcards and info packs ready for the Day of Action. Ute owners are getting kitted out for a rally and fresh new signs are being made for the big day.

This is our chance to change the course of state politics, and to Save the Mary River.

The plan is this:
Free buses pick up supporters in the Mary Valley.

Utes, buses and private cars meet at Eumundi Park (next to swimming pool) at 8am for briefing, group photo and local media.

Travel by convoy to Brisbane and campaign before heading home on buses from 2 pm (there will be later buses for the especially energetic postcard distributors).

Brisbane supporters and friends travelling from elsewhere can connect up with the Day of Action at any stage. We need you too!

Steve Posselt Kayaks Again for Mary

We're used to epic kayaker Steve Posselt taking to the water to promote the cause, but this week he and kayak are sticking to land, campaigning in key Brisbane seats to Save the Mary.

Letters Wing Their Way To Canberra

While most attention is state-focussed for the election, our national campaign continues also. Four-thousand letters protesting against the proposed Traveston Crossing dam are being hand-delivered by the Federal Member for Wide Bay, Warren Truss to Kevin Rudd, Peter Garrett, Penny Wong and Anthony Albanese.

To be ready for the Day of Action, you need:

1. No dam shirt
2. Strong bag to carry literature
3. Food and/or money for lunch (must be eaten off the bus)
4. Water bottle
5. Walking shoes, No dam hat and lots of sunscreen

If you can give one day to Save the Mary River, make it this Satur- day 14 March.

The program of activities is being finalised, and we need to know numbers as soon as possible.

To register your involvement and find out details, please call the Save the Mary Info Centre on 5488 4800, or Helga Hill on 5447 9288 or Caroline and Dave Kreutz on 5447 9491.

This is a critical time in our battle. There will not be another chance like the next 12 days.

We ask everyone who has ever signed a petition, written a letter, attended a rally or opposed the dam in any way to help us get the word even more into Brisbane and particularly into marginal seats.

We've won this on environment and economics, now we have to win it on politics.

Saving the
Mary River?

It takes
people power!



"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little" Edmund Burke

12 Ways in Twelve Days: Saving the Mary River in the Election Countdown

Have you...

- 1 Signed up for the Day of Action on March 14 in Brisbane?
- 2 Talked about Traveston Crossing Dam to friends and associates, especially those in marginal Labor-held electorates?
- 3 Picked up a handful of NO DAM stickers to put in prominent public places?
- 4 Written a letter to the editor about the Traveston Dam proposal?

- 5 Written a personal letter to your MP?
- 6 Signed a letter pack at the Kandanga No Dam Info Centre or used the letter generator at www.stoppress.com.au?
- 7 Rung talkback radio?
- 8 Visited the website www.savethemaryriver.com.au and checked out the forum?
- 9 Asked your candidates what they're doing about stopping Traveston Crossing Dam?

- 10 Made Traveston Dam an issue at any public event with candidates?
- 11 Put up a NO DAM or SAVE THE MARY sign on your house, car, property or business?
- 12 Seen the 'Love, Mary' book? Sent it to friends & family? Sent a 'From my Family... to Yours' pack to a family in Brisbane?

Check out the full 21 Ways brochure at <http://www.savethemaryriver.com/drpl/node/32#attachments>

Preferentially Speaking

My efforts in the January edition of Dambusters to demystify the optional preferential voting system went a little wider than originally intended with the Gympie Times picking it up for its readership. Despite our combined best efforts, I still encounter many who don't understand that preferences are theirs to give and for the party only to suggest. The confusion is somewhat understandable with four different voting systems in place for our four levels of government.

Given that the imminent state election will utilise an "optional preferential" system, that's the one we need to familiarise ourselves with.

Optional preferential means that the voter can a) just indicate a first and only choice of candidate, b) assign votes to one or more candidates as long as the order of preference is clearly indicated, or c) rank all candidates in order of preference.

Voters may be influenced by suggestions on how-to-vote cards but the final choice of whether to allocate preferences, how many, and to whom, is totally up to the voter. All parties are likely to enter into some preference "deals" but it must be plain these are for their how-to-vote cards only and are in no way binding for voters.

They are your preferences. Use your vote and whatever preferences you decide to help keep Mary dam-free. Make sure your vote and your preferences go to candidates who have promised to stop the dam.

- Ian Mackay

The Dambusters Newsletter is published monthly and Dambusters Bulletins are released if there is big news that can't wait until the next edition. All Dambusters can be accessed online at www.savethemaryriver.com.

Contributions and feedback to The Dambusters are welcomed and can be sent to the Editor, Tilly Hinton: tillyhinton@hotmail.com or 5456 2910 (a/h).

The Save the Mary River Coordinating Group Inc. is not party political, but will actively campaign to oppose any candidates who are in favour of the proposed damming of the Mary River.

Study Finds Environment a Major Vote Decider

A research report commissioned by the World Wildlife Fund has found that the environment will have a strong influence on voting decisions in the forthcoming state election.

With a mixed sample of a thousand voters, the poll found that 71% of all voters and 73% of "undecided" voters stated that the environment would have either a strong or a very strong influence on how they would vote. This figure was higher for females (83%), than males (64%), and was relatively consistent across Brisbane and other areas.

Most interestingly, the issues rated as of highest importance were "saving rivers and coasts from dams and pollution" and "saving the Great Barrier Reef" (both 78%)

Contacts List

Save the Mary River Coordinating Group (STMRCG)

Post: c/o Post Office, Kandanga, Q 4570

email: savethemaryriver@gmail.com

Web: www.savethemaryriver.com

Forum: www.travestonswamp.info/forum/

Save the Mary Info Centre - Open 7 days

Visit: Kandanga Railway Station, Kandanga

Phone: (07) 5488 4800

Greater Mary Association (GMA)

email: greatermary@gmail.com

Web: www.ourgreatsandy.com/

Save the Mary River Brisbane Group

Phone: David 0403 871 082 or Gaby 3395 5028

email: savethemaryriverbrisbane@yahoo.com.au

Web: www.savethemaryriverbrisbane.wordpress.com/